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National SAFE KIDS Campaign
Says
"Close the Roller Coaster Loophole"

June 7, 2000

Dear Colleague:

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign, chaired by former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, recently endorsed our bill to allow federal investigation of amusement park ride fatalities and serious injuries. The National SAFE KIDS Campaign is concerned that millions of parents will travel to our nation's theme parks in the next three months believing – wrongly -- that the safety of their children is assured by the active oversight of federal safety regulators.

Last year 6 people died on roller coasters, and emergency room visits by park patrons has risen an estimated 87% over the last 5 years, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The time has come to close the "Roller Coaster Loophole" – a special-interest exemption, enjoyed by the theme park industry, that forbids federal safety oversight of amusement park rides.

Please join us, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union and many other organizations dedicated to child and consumer safety by becoming a cosponsor of H.R. 3032, the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act. Just call David Moulton at 225-2836. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Connie Morella

Anna Eshoo